



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

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MEMORANDUM

TO: School Health & Nutrition Program Sponsors

FROM: Mary Szafranski, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Services

Kacey Frey, NSLP Health Director
Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Programs

DATE: April 4, 2007

SUBJECT: Fluid Milk and Other Food Components/Menu Items in Reimbursable Lunches

Original Signed

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify the component/menu item of fluid milk for the purposes of offering a reimbursable meal. Under component and nutrient standard menu planning approaches, fluid milk is a separate food component/menu item.

When implementing Offer vs. Serve (OVS) fluid milk must be offered as its own food component in the traditional and enhanced meal pattern, or as its own menu item in nutrient standard menu planning. For example, under nutrient standard menu planning approaches the Local Education Agency (LEA) may not have a "beverage category" with the following menu items: Fat Free Milk, Apple Juice or 1% Milk. Only fluid milk (Fat Free, 1%, 2% etc.) may be grouped together as a choice for students to choose from. Additionally, the LEA may not group food items with fluid milk. For example in component menu planning, students cannot choose between the following: Milk, Apple or Carrots. Fluid milk cannot be grouped with any other beverage or food item.

The OVS provision allows students to decline the component/menu item, fluid milk. It is not the intention of the OVS provision to have fluid milk compete with other food products and/or beverages. It is noted that all food components/menu items play an intricate role in offering nutritious meals. Allowing students to exchange one food component/menu item for another does not support the nutritional mission of the National School Lunch Program and also undermines the educational values of the school dining experience.

Please contact the Arizona Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Programs with any questions pertaining to this information at 602-542-8700.

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